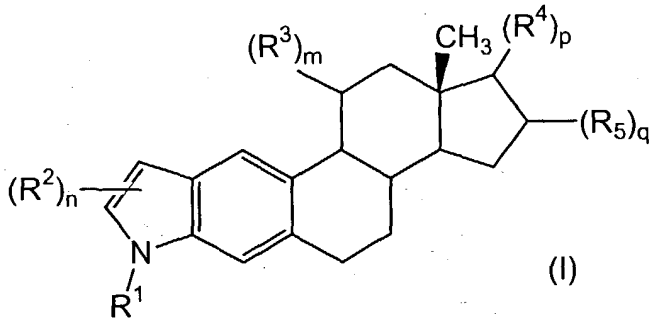
We Claim:

1. A compound of formula (I)



(I)

wherein

R^1 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, hydroxy, A, -O-A, C(O)-A and -SO_2-A;

n is an integer from 0 to 2;

each R^2 is independently selected from the group consisting of hydroxy, carboxy, halogen, -A, -O-A, -C(O)-A, -C(O)O-A, amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino, cyano, aminocarbonyl, alkylaminocarbonyl, dialkylaminocarbonyl, -SH, -S-A, -SO-A, -SO_2-A, -SO_2-NH_2, -SO_2-NH(alkyl) and -SO_2-N(alkyl)$_2$;

m is an integer from 0 to 2;

each R^3 is independently selected from the group consisting of -A, -O-A, -S-A, -NH-A, -N(A)$_2$ and -C(O)-A;

p is an integer from 1 to 2;

each R^4 is independently selected from the group consisting of hydroxy, carboxy, cyano, -A, alkenyl, -alkenyl-A, alkynyl, -alkynyl-A, -O-A, -NH_2, NH(A), -N(A)$_2$, -N(A)-C(O)-A, -NH-C(O)-A, -C(O)-N(A)$_2$, -C(O)-NH_2, -C(O)-NH-A, -SO_2-N(A)$_2$, -SO_2-NH(A), -SO_2-NH_2, -N(A)-SO_2-A, -NH-SO_2-A, -C(O)O-A, -OC(O)H and -OC(O)-A;

alternatively, when p is 2, two R^4 groups may be taken together as oxo or =N(OH);

q is an integer from 0 to 2;

each R^5 is independently selected from the group consisting of hydroxy, carboxy, halogen, alkyl, alkoxy, cycloalkyl and -C(O)-A; wherein the alkyl group is optionally substituted with one or more substituents independently selected from halogen, hydroxy, carboxy or alkoxy;

wherein each A is independently selected from the group consisting of alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, cycloalkyl, heteroaryl and heterocycloalkyl; wherein the aryl, aralkyl, cycloalkyl, heteroaryl or heterocycloalkyl group is optionally substituted with one or more substituents independently selected from halogen, hydroxy, carboxy, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, nitro, cyano, amino, lower alkylamino or di(lower alkyl)amino;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

2. A compound as in Claim 1 wherein

R^1 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, hydroxy, A, -O-A, C(O)-A and $-SO_2$-A;

n is an integer from 0 to 1;

each R^2 is independently selected from the group consisting of carboxy, halogen, -A, -C(O)-A, -C(O)O-A, cyano, -S-A, -SO-A, $-SO_2$-A, $-SO_2-NH_2$, $-SO_2$-NH(alkyl) and $-SO_2-N(alkyl)_2$;

m is an integer from 0 to 1;

each R^3 is independently selected from the group consisting of -A, -O-A, -S-A, -NH-A and -C(O)-A;

p is an integer from 1 to 2;

R^4 is selected from the group consisting of hydroxy, $-NH_2$, -NH(A), $-N(A)_2$, $-C(O)NH_2$, -C(O)-NH(A), $-SO_2-NH_2$, $-SO_2$-NH(A) and -OC(O)-A, when the R^4 is in a β-orientation;

R^4 is selected from the group consisting of hydroxy, carboxy, cyano, -A, alkenyl, -alkenyl-A, alkynyl, -alkynyl-A, -O-A, $-NH_2$, -NH(A), $-N(A)_2$, -N(A)-C(O)-A, -NH-C(O)-A, $-C(O)-N(A)_2$, $-C(O)-NH_2$, -C(O)-NH-A, $-SO_2-N(A)_2$, $-SO_2$-NH(A), $-SO_2-NH_2$, $-N(A)-SO_2$-A, $-NH-SO_2$-A, -C(O)O-A, -OC(O)H and -OC(O)-A, when the R^4 is in an α-orientation;

alternatively, when p is 2, two R^4 groups may be taken together as oxo or =N(OH);

q is an integer from 0 to 1;

R^5 is selected from the group consisting of carboxy, halogen, lower alkyl, and -C(O)-A; wherein the alkyl group is optionally substituted with one to two substituents independently selected from halogen, hydroxy, carboxy or alkoxy;

wherein each A is independently selected from the group consisting of alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, cycloalkyl, heteroaryl and heterocycloalkyl; wherein the aryl, aralkyl, cycloalkyl, heteroaryl or heterocycloalkyl group is optionally substituted with one to two substituents independently selected from halogen, hydroxy, carboxy, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, nitro, cyano, amino, lower alkylamino or di(lower alkyl)amino;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

3. A compound as in Claim 2 wherein

R^1 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and $-SO_2$-alkyl;

n is 0;

m is 0;

p is an integer from 1 to 2;

R^4 is selected from the group consisting of hydroxy and -O-C(O)-alkyl; wherein the alkyl portion of the -O-C(O)-alkyl group is optionally substituted with a carboxy group;

alternatively when p is 2, two R^4 groups are taken together as oxo;

q is 0;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

4. A compound as in Claim 3 wherein

R^1 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and $-SO_2-CH_3$;

n is 0;

m is 0;

p is an integer from 1 to 2;

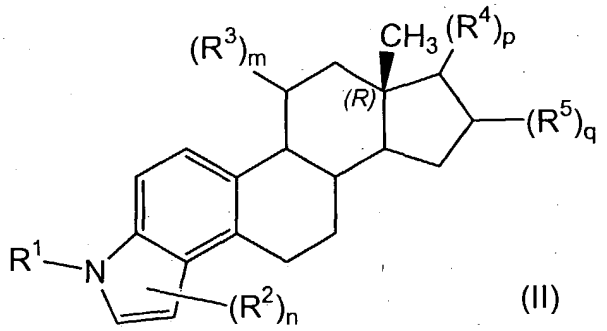
R^4 is selected from the group consisting of hydroxy and -O-C(O)-n-butyl and $-O-C(O)-CH_2CH_2CH_2CH_2-CO_2H$;

alternatively when p is 2, two R^4 groups are taken together as oxo;

q is 0;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

5. A compound of the formula (II)



(II)

wherein

R^1 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, hydroxy, A, -O-A, C(O)-A and $-SO_2$-A;

n is an integer from 0 to 2;

each R^2 is independently selected from the group consisting of hydroxy, carboxy, halogen, -A, -O-A, -C(O)-A, -C(O)O-A, amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino, cyano, aminocarbonyl, alkylaminocarbonyl, dialkylaminocarbonyl, -SH, -S-A, -SO-A, $-SO_2$-A, $-SO_2-NH_2$, $-SO_2$-NH(alkyl) and $-SO_2-N(alkyl)_2$;

m is an integer from 0 to 2;

each R^3 is independently selected from the group consisting of -A, -O-A, -S-A, -NH-A, $-N(A)_2$ and -C(O)-A;

p is an integer from 1 to 2;

each R^4 is independently selected from the group consisting of hydroxy, carboxy, cyano, -A, alkenyl, -alkenyl-A, alkynyl, -alkynyl-A, -O-A, $-NH_2$, NH(A), $-N(A)_2$, -N(A)-C(O)-A, -NH-C(O)-A, $-C(O)-N(A)_2$, $-C(O)-NH_2$, -C(O)-NH-A, $-SO_2-N(A)_2$, $-SO_2$-NH(A), $-SO_2-NH_2$, -N(A)-SO_2-A, -NH-SO_2-A, -C(O)O-A, -OC(O)H and -OC(O)-A;

alternatively, when p is 2, two R^4 groups may be taken together as oxo or =N(OH);

q is an integer from 0 to 2;

each R^5 is independently selected from the group consisting of hydroxy, carboxy, halogen, alkyl, alkoxy, cycloalkyl and -C(O)-A; wherein the alkyl group

is optionally substituted with one or more substituents independently selected from halogen, hydroxy, carboxy or alkoxy;

wherein each A is independently selected from the group consisting of alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, cycloalkyl, heteroaryl and heterocycloalkyl; wherein the aryl, aralkyl, cycloalkyl, heteroaryl or heterocycloalkyl group is optionally substituted with one or more substituents independently selected from halogen, hydroxy, carboxy, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, nitro, cyano, amino, lower alkylamino or di(lower alkyl)amino;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

6. A compound as in Claim 1 wherein

R^1 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, hydroxy, A, -O-A, C(O)-A and $-SO_2$-A;

n is an integer from 0 to 1;

each R^2 is independently selected from the group consisting of carboxy, halogen, -A, -C(O)-A, -C(O)O-A, cyano, -SO-A, $-SO_2$-A, $-SO_2-NH_2$, $-SO_2$-NH(alkyl) and $-SO_2-N(alkyl)_2$;

m is an integer from 0 to 1;

each R^3 is independently selected from the group consisting of -A, -O-A, -S-A, -NH-A and -C(O)-A;

p is an integer from 1 to 2;

R^4 is selected from the group consisting of hydroxy, $-NH_2$, -NH(A), $-N(A)_2$, $-C(O)NH_2$, -C(O)-NH(A), $-SO_2-NH_2$, $-SO_2$-NH(A) and -OC(O)-A, when the R^4 is in a β-orientation;

R^4 is selected from the group consisting of hydroxy, carboxy, cyano, -A, alkenyl, -alkenyl-A, alkynyl, -alkynyl-A, -O-A, $-NH_2$, -NH(A), $-N(A)_2$, -N(A)-C(O)-A, -NH-C(O)-A, $-C(O)-N(A)_2$, $-C(O)-NH_2$, -C(O)-NH-A, $-SO_2-N(A)_2$, $-SO_2$-NH(A), $-SO_2-NH_2$, $-N(A)-SO_2$-A, $-NH-SO_2$-A, -C(O)O-A, -OC(O)H and -OC(O)-A, when the R^4 is in an α-orientation;

alternatively, when p is 2, two R^4 groups may be taken together as oxo or =N(OH);

q is an integer from 0 to 1;

R^5 is selected from the group consisting of carboxy, halogen, lower alkyl, and -C(O)-A; wherein the alkyl group is optionally substituted with one to two substituents independently selected from halogen, hydroxy, carboxy or alkoxy;

wherein each A is independently selected from the group consisting of alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, cycloalkyl, heteroaryl and heterocycloalkyl; wherein the aryl, aralkyl, cycloalkyl, heteroaryl or heterocycloalkyl group is optionally substituted with one to two substituents independently selected from halogen, hydroxy, carboxy, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, nitro, cyano, amino, lower alkylamino or di(lower alkyl)amino;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

7. A compound as in Claim 6 wherein

R^1 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and -SO_2-alkyl;

n is an integer from 0 to 1;

R^2 is selected from the group consisting of -S-(alkyl);

m is 0;

p is an integer from 1 to 2;

R^4 is selected from the group consisting of hydroxy, alkynyl and -O-C(O)-(alkyl);

alternatively, when p is 2, two R^4 groups are taken together as oxo;

q is 0;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

8. A compound as in Claim 7 wherein

R^1 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and -SO_2-CH_3;

n is an integer from 0 to 1;

R^2 is -S-CH_3;

m is 0;

p is an integer from 1 to 2;

R^4 is selected from the group consisting of hydroxy, ethynyl and -OC(O)-n-butyl;

alternatively, when p is 2, two R^4 groups are taken together as oxo;

q is 0;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

9. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and a compound of Claim 1.

10. A pharmaceutical composition made by mixing a compound of Claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

11. A process for making a pharmaceutical composition comprising mixing a compound of Claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

12. A method of treating a disorder mediated by an estrogen receptor, in a subject in need thereof comprising administering to the subject a therapeutically effective amount of the compound of Claim 1.

13. The method of Claim 12, wherein the disorder mediated by an estrogen receptor is selected from the group consisting of hot flashes, vaginal dryness, osteopenia, osteoporosis, hyperlipidemia, loss of cognitive function, degenerative brain diseases, cardiovascular diseases, cerebrovascular diseases, cancer of the breast tissue, hyperplasia of the breast tissue, cancer of the endometrium, hyperplasia of the endometrium, cancer of the cervix, hyperplasia of the cervix, cancer of the prostate, benign prostatic hyperplasia, endometriosis, uterine fibroids, osteoarthritis and contraception.

14. The method of Claim 13, wherein the disorder mediated by an estrogen receptor is selected from the group consisting of osteoporosis, hot flashes, vaginal dryness, breast cancer and endometriosis.

15. A method of treating a disorder mediated by an estrogen receptor in a subject in need thereof comprising administering to the subject a therapeutically effective amount of the composition of Claim 10.

16. A method of contraception comprising co-therapy with a therapeutically effective amount of a compound as in Claim 1 and a progestogen or a progestogen antagonist.

17. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and a compound of Claim 5.

18. A pharmaceutical composition made by mixing a compound of Claim 5 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

19. A process for making a pharmaceutical composition comprising mixing a compound of Claim 5 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

20. A method of treating a disorder mediated by an estrogen receptor, in a subject in need thereof comprising administering to the subject a therapeutically effective amount of the compound of Claim 5.

21. The method of Claim 21, wherein the disorder mediated by an estrogen receptor is selected from the group consisting of hot flashes, vaginal dryness, osteopenia, osteoporosis, hyperlipidemia, loss of cognitive function, degenerative brain diseases, cardiovascular diseases, cerebrovascular diseases, cancer of the breast tissue, hyperplasia of the breast tissue, cancer of the endometrium, hyperplasia of the endometrium, cancer of the cervix, hyperplasia of the cervix, cancer of the prostate, benign prostatic hyperplasia, endometriosis, uterine fibroids, osteoarthritis and contraception.

22. The method of Claim 21, wherein the disorder mediated by an estrogen receptor is selected from the group consisting of osteoporosis, hot flashes, vaginal dryness, breast cancer and endometriosis.

23. A method of treating a disorder mediated by an estrogen receptor in a subject in need thereof comprising administering to the subject a therapeutically effective amount of the composition of Claim 18.

24. A method of contraception comprising co-therapy with a therapeutically effective amount of a compound as in Claim 5 and a progestogen or a progestogen antagonist.

25. A method of contraception comprising co-therapy with a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula (II) and a progestogen or a progestogen antagonist.